Exploration by Soviet Experts in Cambay and Cauvery basin

740. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a protocol has been signed between India and the Soviet Union providing for intensive integrated exploration by Soviet experts in the Cambay and Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any other projects have been finalised for drilling and oil exploration; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the proposed work programme are as under:

	North Cambay	Cauvery
Seismic Survey	3100 LKM	4000 LKM
Drilling :		
(a) No. of wells	38	37
(b) Meterage	81500	122000
Duration	1986-1992	1986-95

Seventy percent of the cost of the exploration work is expected to be covered by Soviet credit.

(c) It has been decided to invite offers from reputed international oil companies for exploration in 27 blocks in the offshore areas of India. Bids have not yet been invited.

Inadequate process of crude oil

741. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATNRAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire Indian Crude can not be processed locally at present, due to inadequacies in refining capacities; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken/contemplated to be taken to ensure the processing of the entire Indian crude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Investment by American companies for oil and gas

742. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission authorities have asked a visiting U.S. Trade Mission on oil and gas industry to identify American companies with expertise in oil and gas production, who are willing to invest in India; and

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposal from U.S. companies has since been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

O.N.G.C. to meet its resource gaps

743. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since allowed the ONGC to go in for commercial borrowing both from within and outside the country to meet its resource gaps during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have allowed ONGC to go in for external commercial borrowings to meet part of their foreign exchange requirements during Seventh Plan. The following borrowings have been finalised so far in addition to a Suppliers Credit of Rs. 6 crores:

1. First Yen Bond Issue by Private placement in the Japanese market for Yen 10 billion.

2. Second Yen Bond Issue in the Japanese market for Yen 10 billion.

3. Floating Rate Notes Issue in London market for $ 125 million.

Deficit of power generation

744. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country will face a peak demand deficit of 20 per cent in power generation by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the steps propose to be taken to reduce the said deficit?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Peaking shortages of varying degrees are likely to occur by the end of the Seventh Plan. The All India peaking shortage would be in the region of 19%. In order to narrow the gap between supply and demand, several measures have been initiated. These include (i) expeditious commissioning of ongoing projects, (ii) improvement in the Plant Load Factor—through implementation of a renovation and modernisation programme for rehabilitation of old power plants, (iii) installation of short-gestation capacity viz, setting up of gas turbines, (iv) reduction of T&D losses, (v) Energy Conservation measures, (vi) training of Power Sector personnel to improve the management of power stations and transmission systems, and (vii) setting up of a Power Finance Corporation for financing important projects.

Impact on oil production during Seventh Five Year Plan

745. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Seventh Five Year Plan outlay has been slashed considerably; and

(b) if so, the possible impact of it on the oil production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Rs. 9702.67 crores outlay has been approved for the Seventh Plan for ONGC and OIL. The physical target for crude production during the Plan period has been fixed at 159.14 million tonnes.

Import of power equipment

746. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import 5000 MW power equipment; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Primary reliance, for procurement of power generating equipment continues to be on the indigenous manufacturers. Import is resorted to only selectively and, on merits, depending on the totality of circumstances.